

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3106

INFO AMEMBASSY BNGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID, MA, RP

SUBJ: IMELDA MARCOS' VISIT TO INDONESIA

1. ON PAR 28, IMELDA MARCOS COMPLETED A FIVE-DAY VISIT
TO INDONESIA AND ONE-DAY STOPOVER IN HONG KONG. ALTHOUGH
MEDIA FOCUSED ON MADAM'S QUOTE CULTURAL PILGRIMAGE, END
QUOTE, VISIT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO GOP IN ITS EFFORTS
TO OBTAIN GOI SUPPORT IN DEALING WITH MALAYSIANS OVER
MINDANAO.

2. FULSOME MEDIA COVERAGE OF INDONESIAN TRIP GAVE PHILIP-
PINE AUDIENCE RATHER INTRIGUING EXPOSURE TO ITS ASEAN
NEIGHBOR. TRIP ITSELF AND MRS. MARCOS' REFERENCES TO
INDONESIA AS SOURCE OF CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL HERITAGE
(SUPPORTED BY GOP CONTRIBUTION TO BOROBUDUR RESTORATION)
HAVE ADDED NEW DIMENSION TO INCIPIENT PHILIPPINE REGIONALISM.
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3. PRESIDENT PLAYED ON ONE ASPECT OF THIS THEME AT AIRPORT WHEN HE SAID THAT TRIP INTENDED TO QUOTE EASE ESTRANGEMENT BETWEEN NEIGHBORS, END QUOTE, SAYING QUOTE ONE OF EFFECTS OF COLONIZATION IS THAT WE HAVE BECOME STRANGERS TO EACH OTHER AND IT HAS NOW BECOME NECESSARY TO MAKE UP FOR THIS ESTRANGEMENT BETWEEN RACIAL BROTHERS. INDONESIA AND THE PHILIPPINES ARE NEIGHBORS AND WE ARE INTERESTED IN EACH OTHER'S DEVELOPMENT AND STABILITY. END QUOTE. PRESIDENT'S PHRASEOLOGY IS NOT NEW IN PHILIPPINE LEXICON FOR TALKING TO ASIANS, BUT PROBABLY HAS GREATER MEASURE OF SINCERITY.

4. PRESS CAREFULLY NOTED MRS. MARCOS' REFUSAL TO COMMENT ON REPORTS GOI HAS OFFERED GOOD OFFICES TO MEDIATE BETWEEN GOP AND GOM, AND ALSO MADE POINTED REFERENCES TO HER PRIVATE MEETINGUQ WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO. THESE MEETINGS NO DOUBT PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR MARCOS TO GET ACROSS HIS VIEWS TO SUHARTO PRIOR TO LATTER'S MEETING WITH RAZAK BUT WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF RESULTS AS YET.

5. ONLY UNORCHESTRATED ASPECT OF TRIP WAS MRS. MARCOS' GRANDSTANDING IN HONG KONG ON QUESTION OF GOP RELATIONS WITH PRC. ANSWERING QUESTION ON TIMING RELATIONS BETWEEN PRC AND GOP, SHE SAID, QUOTE YOU WILL KNOW. THE PRESIDENT WILL ANNOUNCE IT. END QUOTE. BIG MANILA HEADLINES AND MISLEADING IMPLICATION THJS SUCH TIES IMMINENT APPARENTLY SOUNDLY IRRITATED PRESIDENT WHO IS CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATING DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH BOTH PRC AND USSR.

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